Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Natural Resource Division

Natural Resource Division Mission

To **support** the operational requirements of a Marine Aircraft Wing and other units operating on MCAS Miramar by **ensuring compliance** with federal laws and regulations regarding **natural and cultural resources**. To uphold the guidelines and policies in **Marine Corps Order P5090.2A**, Environmental

Primary Natural and Cultural Resource Issues on MCAS Miramar

- COASTAL SAGE SCRUB
- STREAMBED (Riparian) AREAS
- VERNAL POOLS
- PRE-HISTORIC OR HISTORIC SITES

Federal Laws and Regulations Most Applicable to MCAS Miramar

California gnatcatcher Federally

- National Historic Preservation Act
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Clean Water Act

PRE-HISTORIC OR HISTORIC SITES

- There are more than 150 pre-historic and historic sites recorded on MCAS Miramar
- Nine sites appear eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- These areas need to be protected and off limits.

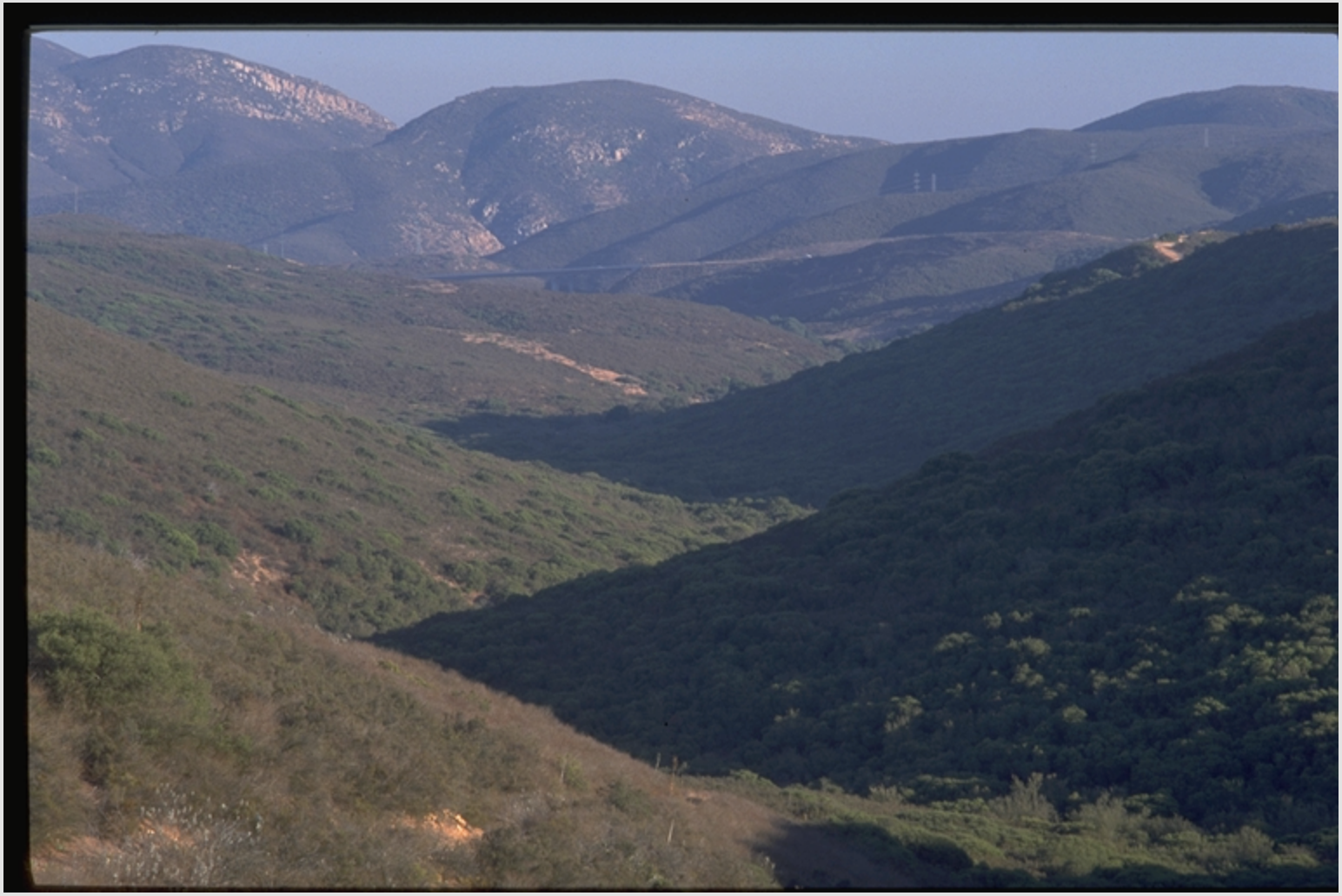
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

- “Historic properties” are any pre-historic (archaeological) or historic sites, buildings, structures, or objects.
- Requires consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office prior to authorizing an action which may affect a “historic property”.
- Establish a program for the preservation of “historic properties” nationwide.
- Failure to follow process could result in lawsuit.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT

- Prohibits the unauthorized excavation, removal, damage, or trafficking of historic or archeological materials.
- Requires permits for removal of materials from federal properties, including Miramar.
- Penalties to individuals could include fines up to $100,000 and 5 years imprisonment.

EAST MIRAMAR
OAK CANYON



ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

- Requires consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services prior to authorizing any action that may affect an endangered species.
- Prohibits the taking, importation, and commercialization of endangered species in interstate and foreign commerce.
- "**Taking**" means "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct."
- Penalties to individuals could include fines up to $200,000 and 1 year imprisonment per take.
- Unit violations could result in additional restrictions on operations and costly damage repair.

SPECIES OF REGIONAL CONCERN

Rosy Boa

Loggerhead Shrike

SD Horned Lizard

Brazilian Free-tailed

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

- Makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, posses, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird; including their feathers, nest or eggs.
- Migratory Bird Hunting Act exempts certain specific hunting activities.
- **ONLY FIVE BIRDS ON MCAS MIRAMAR ARE NOT PROTECTED**

  1) House Sparrow
  2) European Starling
  3) Common Pigeon
  4) California Quail
  5) Wrentit
- Penalties could include fines and possible imprisonment

Great Horned Owl Babies

CLEAN WATER ACT

- Requires permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to carrying out an action which dredges or fills any waters of the U.S., including wetlands.
- Requires water quality protection certification from Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Penalties to individuals could include fines up to $50,000 and 3 years imprisonment.
- Unit violations could result in additional restrictions on operations and costly damage repair.

VERNAL POOLS

- Seasonal wetlands resembling small, shallow pools that form during the winter rainy season.
- 97% have been destroyed in San Diego County.
- Of the remaining vernal pools, MCAS Miramar has approximately 124 acres mapped.

WET

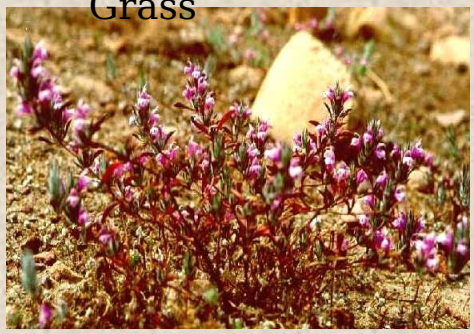
DRY

VERNAL POOL SPECIES

SD Button Celery

CA Orcutt Grass

- Regulated by the Endangered Species Act and sometimes the Clean Water Act.
- Habitat for 6 species protected under the Federal ESA.



SD Mesa Mint

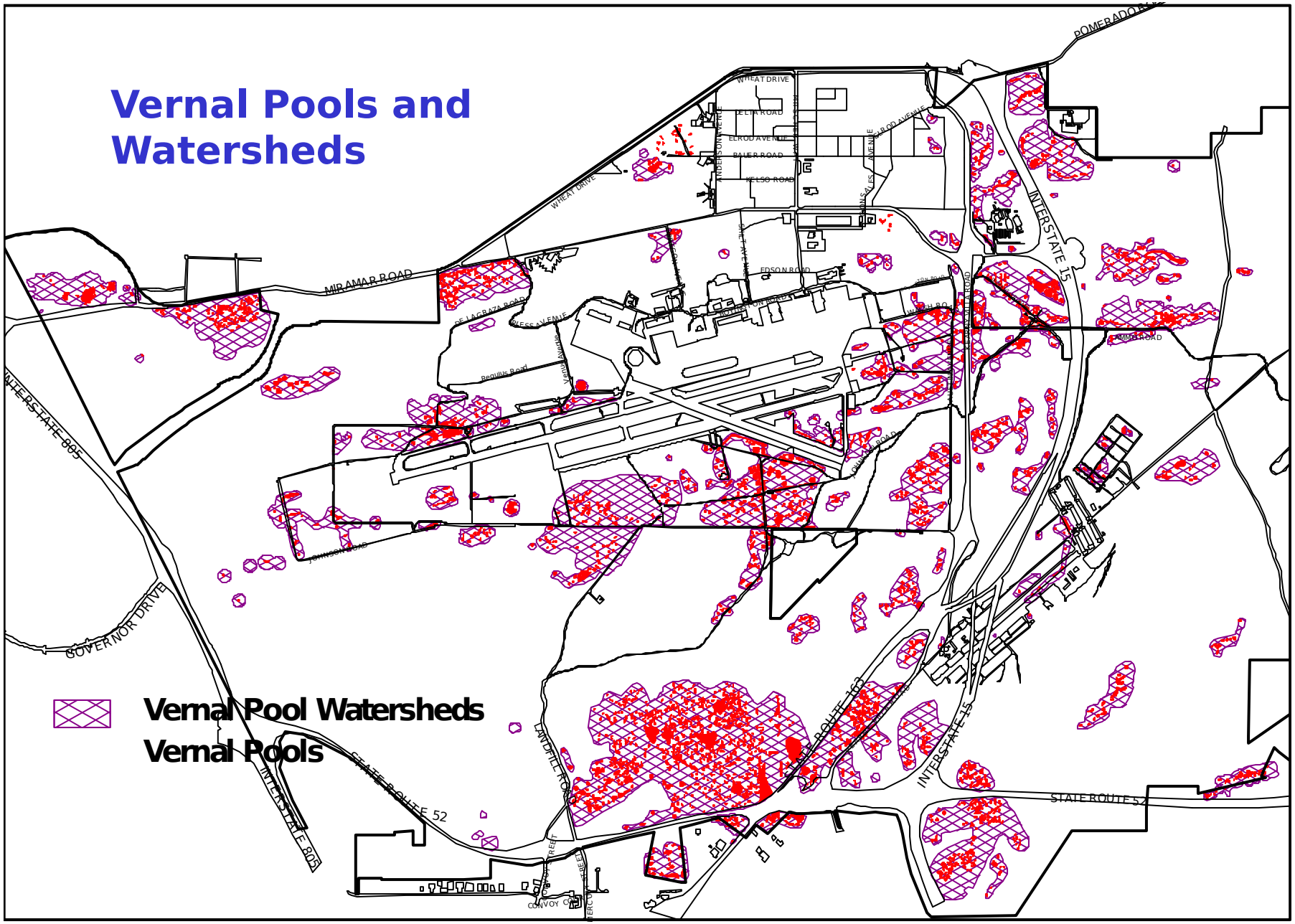
Fairy Shrimp

CA Spreading

VERNAL POOLS

Habitat Destruction Occurs From:

*Development
*Off road vehicle activity
*Concentrated foot traffic
*Other ground disturbing


Vernal Pools and Watersheds
Vernal Pool Watersheds
Vernal Pools
MIRAMAR ROAD
GOVERNOR DRIVE
INTERSTATE 805
STATE ROUTE 52
INTERSTATE 15
STATE ROUTE 163
CLAIREMONT MESA BOULEVARD
WHEAT DRIVE
ELROD AVENUE
BAUER ROAD
WELSO ROAD
FOSTER ROAD
LAYDITTLE ROAD
CONVOY COURT
POMERADO ROAD

STREAMBED (Riparian) AREAS

Least Bell's vireo
Vireo bellii

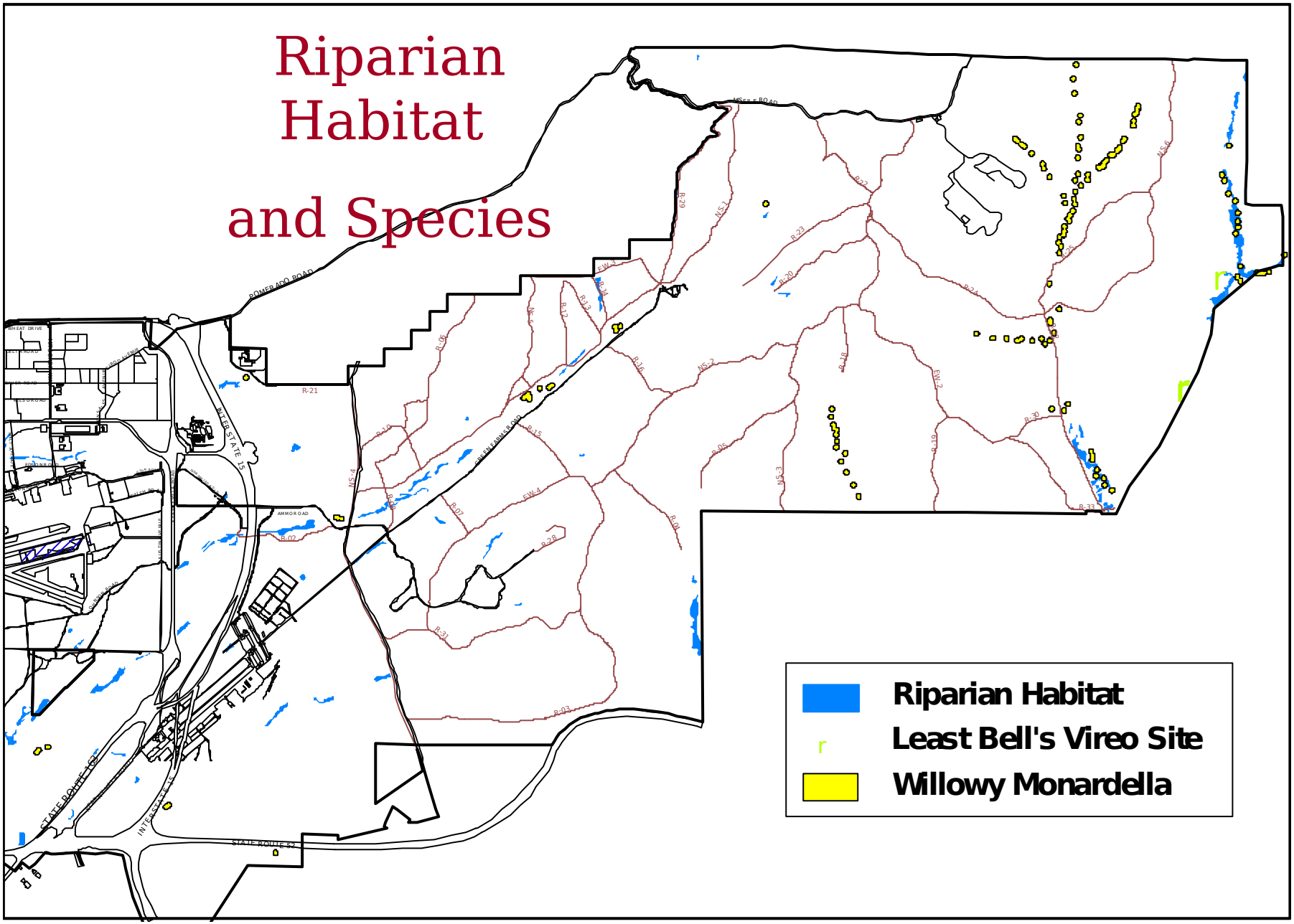
- **Streambed (riparian) areas occur where surface water seasonally flows and supports large, dense stands of vegetation such as trees.**
- **MCAS Miramar has 310 acres**
- **Habitat for the endangered Least Bell's vireo and willowy monardella.**

STREAMBED (Riparian) AREAS

- Regulated by the Clean Water Act and possibly the Endangered Species Act.
- Habitat loss due to development and off-road vehicle activities

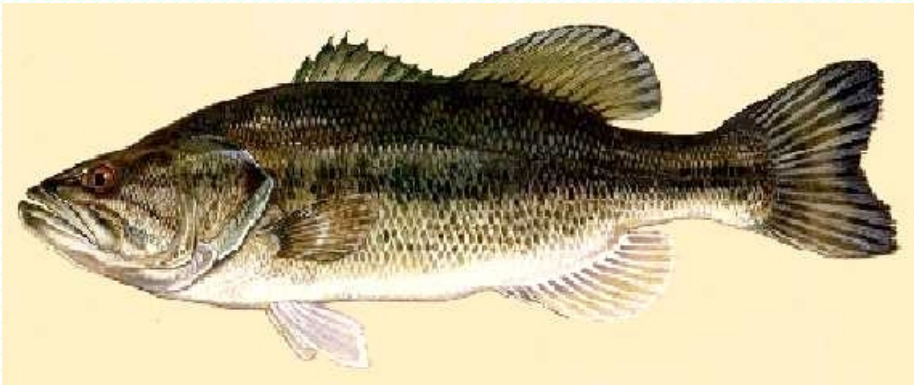
Willowy Monardella
Status: Federally endangered

Riparian Habitat and Species



CAUTION!!!

FISH POND

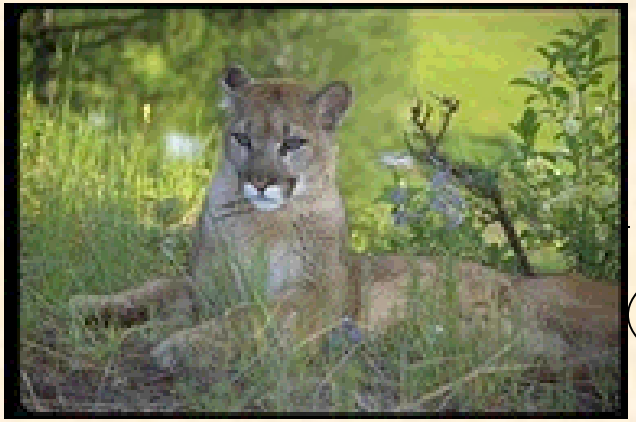


MCAS MIRAMAR WILDLIFE

Mule Deer

Coyote

Western Spadefoot



Mountain Lion

QUESTIONS?

SD Alligator Lizard